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## FISHING HOOKS AND LINES ARE A DANGER TO SEABIRDS

Both hooks and broken lines can injure and kill birds. Techniques for avoiding hooking and entangling birds include:

- Weight line to ensure bait sinks rapidly
- Don't feed birds, even gulls – it will attract others
- Don't leave bait or offal exposed
- Dispose of trash properly, including fish remains and monofilament
- Avoid fishing next to large concentrations of birds, particularly near roosting and breeding areas

If you entangle a bird, and it can be reeled in and captured without injury, attempt to unhook or disentangle the bird. If it can't be captured, cut the line as close to the bird as possible. Report injured birds to local wildlife care facilities. For more information on avoiding entanglements visit the Department's Marine Region website at: [www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/seabirds.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/seabirds.html) or Save Our Seabirds, Inc. at: [www.seabirdrehab.org](http://www.seabirdrehab.org).

## AVOID DISTURBING SEABIRD BREEDING COLONIES

Seabirds typically nest on offshore islands. Islands offer them a measure of protection from predators and from disturbance.

Anytime a boat closely approaches a group of nesting birds and causes them to fly away, the birds have been disturbed. Too much disturbance to a colony can result in seabirds abandoning their nests. This is particularly important at the start of the breeding season (spring to early summer in California) as birds are more easily disturbed when building nests and laying eggs. The disturbance of particularly sensitive surface-nesting species, such as cormorants and gulls, can result in other less sensitive species, such as common murre, from flying away from their nests.

Seabirds nest on offshore rocks and islands along the entire California coast line. Major areas for breeding include the Farallon Islands (central California), the Channel Islands (southern California), and Castle Rock (northern California). All seabirds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and a few, such as the brown pelican, California least tern, marbled murrelet are protected by the Endangered Species Act. The best way to avoid disturbing nesting birds is to avoid boating at high speeds near colonies and to maintain a distance that does not cause birds to fly off their nests.

## MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT

Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), commercial fishing vessel owners must register and obtain an Authorization Certificate from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to incidentally take marine mammals during fishing operations for each vessel that will engage in a Category I or II fishery.

In 2003, the following fisheries are considered a Category I or II fishery in California: (1) swordfish/thresher shark drift gillnet; (2) all set gillnets using mesh size >3.5 inches; (3) anchovy, mackerel, tuna purse seine; (4) squid purse seine; (5) pelagic longline; (6) yellowtail, barracuda, white seabass, and tuna drift gillnet fisheries. All other commercial fisheries in California are Category III.

If requested by NMFS or a designated contractor providing observer services to NMFS, commercial fishing vessels engaged in a Category I or II fishery are required to carry an observer to record incidental marine mammal, sea turtle, or seabird mortality and injury. Also, all vessel owners engaged in **any** Category I, II, or III fishery **MUST** report all incidental mortality and injury of marine mammals during commercial fishing operations to NMFS. Reports must be submitted on a standard postage-paid reporting form available from NMFS and sent within 48 hours after the end of each fishing trip during which the incidental mortality or injury occurred.

If you are a vessel owner who will be participating in a Category I or II fishery and you have **not yet** obtained an Authorization Certificate, please contact NMFS, Southwest Region, at (562) 980-4024, or by fax at (562) 980-4047, or write to NMFS, Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213. Violations of the MMPA may result in suspension or revocation of Authorization Certificates and/or be subject to the penalties set forth in the MMPA. More information is available at: [swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits.htm](http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits.htm).

**SWORDFISH/THRESHER SHARK DRIFT GILLNET REGULATIONS:** To reduce marine mammal bycatch in the fishery to sustainable levels, NMFS requires training for operators as well as equipment and gear modifications for vessels participating in the California drift gillnet fishery targeting thresher shark and swordfish. Specifically, the regulations require: (1) all vessel operators to attend skipper education workshops if requested by NMFS; (2) all extenders to be 36 feet in length or greater; and (3) acoustic deterrent devices ('pingers') to be deployed on the net during every set. Pingers must be attached within 30-feet (9.14 meters) of the floatline and 36 feet (10.97 meters) of the leadline and staggered such that the horizontal distance between them is no more than 150 feet (45.5 meters). While at sea, operators of drift gillnet vessels with gillnets aboard must carry enough pingers on the vessel to meet the pinger configuration requirements. Please contact the NMFS at (562) 980-4060 if you need more information about these requirements.

## NOTES

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## To Report A Poacher or Polluter ...

If you witness a poaching or polluting incident or any fish and wildlife violation, or have information about such a violation, immediately dial the toll free CalTIP number **1-(888)-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Be prepared to give the fullest possible account of the incident including the name, address, age and description of the suspect, vehicle description, direction of travel, license number, type of violations and when and where it occurred. *Your identity will be protected.*

A warden or dispatcher will take your call. Information from the call is relayed to the Fish and Game region where the offense occurred and an investigation is undertaken locally. If the information supplied by the caller results in an arrest the caller becomes eligible for a reward. *(Rewards up to \$1,000 have been paid.)* All reward money is acquired through private donations; no state funds are used. The case is then reviewed by a volunteer citizen's group known as the Caltip Citizens Review Board.

***It's Got To Stop!***

# CalTIP

CALIFORNIANS TURN IN  
POACHERS AND POLLUTERS

